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TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT:FAO CONFERENCE: IRANIAN PROPOSAL FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AGENCY

REF: ROME 16965

ROME FOR FODAG

1. PER REFTTEL, FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PROVIDED USDEL ON
DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY FAO CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN
ROUHANI.

2. IN GENERAL, CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES BELIEVE THAT
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IRAN'S ULTERIOR MOTIVE IN VIRCULATPNG DRAFT RESOLUTION ON

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AGENCY IS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT IRAN IS BACKTRACKING IN ITS EARLIER SUPPORT FOR IFAD AND IS UNWILLING TO PLEDGE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION. WHILE DRAFT RESOLUTION DOES NOT MENTION SHAH'S PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FUND, IT IS CLEAR FROM ROUHANI'S NOVEMBER 8 SPEECH THAT 10 CENTS PER BARREL SURCHARGE WOULD IN PART FINANCE COMMODITY AGENCY MENTIONED IN RESOLUTION. THUS, BY LINKING SHAH'S DEVELOPMENT FUND PROPOSAL WITH PURPORTED NEED FOR COMMODITY AGENCY, OPEC COUNTRIES SEEM TO BE

PURSUING DUAL OBJECTIVE OF SIDE-STEPPING THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO IFAD AND SHIFTING BURDEN OF ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO OIL IMPORTERS (ASSUMING THE LATTER ABSORB 10 CENTS PER BARREL SURCHARGE). AT ITS DISCRETION, USDEL MAY QUERY NEED TO CONTEMPLATE ESTABLISHING A NEW DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR THESE PURPOSES WHEN ORIGINAL ONE (IFAD) PROPOSED BY OPEC IN 1974 IS NOT YET CONSUMMATED.

3. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC PARAGRAPHS PN DRAFT RESOLUTION, USDEL SHOULD NOTE THAT PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 1 IS REDUNDANT AND COULD BE DELETED SINCE FAO HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AN INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY IN FULFILLMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. MOST FAO MEMBERS HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO THE UNDERTAKING AND THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY IS BEING ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION. MOREOVER, THE OPERATIVE ELEMENT IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, IN FACT, DOES NOT RELATE TO WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

4. PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH 3 CAUSES CONCERN SINCE IT SUGGESTS THAT THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IS NOT PERFORMING ITS FUNCTIONS ADEQUATELY AND THAT IT SHOULD BE, AT LEAST IN PART, SUPERCEDED BY ANOTHER AGENCY. USDEL SHOULD RE-AFFIRM OUR SUPPORT FOR THE WFP AND ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM TO MANAGE MULTILATERAL DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE, USDEL SHOULD PROPOSE ADDITIONAL PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS:
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"REAFFIRMING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION XIII, AN INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY TO HELP ASSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF FOOD FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND ALL DEVELOPED AND ALL THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FUND SHOULD DO SO."

6. WITH REGARD TO OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 1, CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES ASSUME THAT USDEL WILL MAKE CLEAR OUR FIRM OPPOSITION TO ANY KIND OF INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY BANK, AGENCY OR STOCKPILE ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS: (A) WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RECOGNIZED BEST WAY TO ENSURE WORLD FOOD SECWRITY IS THROUGH PRODUCTION AND MARKET MECHANISM AND INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED SYSTEM OF NATIONAL RESERVES; (B) FAO UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY IS IN PLACE AND PRACTICAL STEPS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN TO IMPLEMENT IT; (C) INTERNATIONAL FOOD BANKS ARE IMPRACTICAL SINCE SYSTEMATIC ACQUISITION AND

RELEASE OF STOCKS UNWORKABLE AND WOULD ENTAIL CREATING ANOTHER UN AGENCY WITH A LARGE BUREAUCRACY; (D) WHAT SURPLUS FOOD PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET EMERGENCIES IN LDGS ARE NOW DISTRIBUTED THROUGH UN/FAO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (AND BILATERALLY.) USDEL SHOULD ATTEMPT COORDINATE OPPOSITION TO IRANIAN PROPOSAL. IF VIEWED TACTICALLY NECESSARY, HOWEVER, USDEL MAY AGREE TO "CONSIDER" PROPOSAL (AS STATED IN PRESENT DRAFT) BUT SHOULD REGISTER OUR SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND INABILITY TO ENDORSE IT.

7. SIMILARLY, USDEL MAY, IF NECESSARY, ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2, BUT SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY DEAL WITH MEASURES TO ADDRESS FOOD SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND NOT WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR COPING WITH SURPLUS SITUATIONS OR PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE MEASURES; THESE ARE MORE PROPERLY DEALT WITH IN COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS. KISSINGER

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